

## ABSTRACT

A locking mechanism for a linear actuator comprising a piston rod arranged for generally linear movement  
5 between a fully retracted state and a fully extended state. The locking mechanism comprises a piston follower coupled to the piston rod for movement therewith, and a latching member moveable between a non-locked state and at least one locked state in which  
10 the latching member obstructs the movement of the piston follower such that the piston rod is prevented from adopting the fully retracted state.